

THE NEWS OF EUROPE.

GLADSTONIAN GAINS IN THE BOROUGH ELECTIONS.

RECONQUEST OF LONDON SEAT—THE RESULTS IN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND—IMPORTANT PART PLAYED BY THE WORKINGMEN—MR. GLADSTONE'S VIGOROUS SPEECHES—WHAT WILL HE DO ABOUT HOME RULE?—ESTIMATES OF HIS PROBABLE MAJORITY—PRINCE BISMARCK AND THE GERMAN ATTACK UPON HIM.

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London, July 9.—So remarkable are the results of this week's elections that they might well be left to speak for themselves in America, if the American at home would but take the trouble to examine them and analyze them for himself. For my part, I will state the facts and classify them, leaving no other aim than to put the reader in a position to judge for himself what they mean and what conclusions may be drawn from them. Whether these conclusions are agreeable or disagreeable to the American reader, who sympathizes with and honors Mr. Gladstone, they will at least be his own and not mine. I have abstained hitherto from prophecy and contented myself with recording the prophecies of others, quoting impartially the predictions of electoral pundits on both sides. I shall persevere in that method and shall try to explain what the English have really done and are doing, and so far as I understand them, the motives on which they have acted.

First of all, the totals for the week, not including yesterday's pollings, which will be published this afternoon. All the English boroughs, 226 in all, counting London, have now voted, and they have voted against Mr. Gladstone, albeit not so heavily as in 1886. The totals are: Unionists, 132; Gladstonians, 94.

Of all the towns of the first rank, there is but one, Leeds, which elects a majority of Gladstonians, and one, Manchester, which is equally divided. Leeds shows a decrease in every Gladstonian majority. Most marked of all is the case of Herbert Gladstone, whose majority of over 2,000 in 1886 has fallen to 233. London, Liverpool, Birmingham and Sheffield are all for the Unionists. London, where the Gladstonians have made great gains, sends, nevertheless, thirty-seven Unionists to twenty-five Gladstonians. The gains of the latter are nearly all in the East and the South. Home Rule has not even a foothold in the City of London itself, where three Unionists contested two seats. Liverpool elected eight Unionists to one Home Rule, Mr. T. F. O'Connor, Birmingham has seven members, all Unionists, all chosen by enormous majorities. This is a great personal triumph for Mr. Chamberlain. The Universities, Cambridge, London and Oxford, are unanimously on the same side, and so are even the Scotch and Irish Universities.

By far the most brilliant exploit of the Gladstonians has been their reconquest of so many London seats. They have come within one of regaining their position in 1885. "Progressive" politics have had their effect, and Municipal interests have carried the day, as against Imperial interests. Mr. Penn, however, who defeated Mr. Ritchie in East London, says he won on Home Rule, plus Municipal Reform. The proportions are no doubt difficult to settle. What matters most is actual gains, and a Gladstonian gain of thirteen in London cannot be explained away. It is a performance of which they have a right to be proud.

Results thus far in Ireland are not entirely gratifying to the Gladstonians. Ireland, out of her 103 seats, has polled thirty. The Unionists have carried six boroughs and six counties, the anti-Parnellites six boroughs and eight counties, and the Parnellites four boroughs. Both the Unionists and Parnellites have shown more strength than they were credited with. Dublin elects three Parnellites and one Unionist, not a single anti-Parnellite finding a seat in the Irish Capital. Belfast has defeated Mr. Sexton, choosing Mr. Arnold Forster, a militant Unionist, in his place. Derry has treated Mr. McFarlin no better. It is only in the Southwest that the anti-Parnellites hold their own. They will, in the end, choose a great majority of Irish representatives, but at present there is not a Unionist gain of four seats in Ireland.

Scotland, out of a seventy-two seats, has polled thirty, of which nine are Unionists and twenty-one Gladstonians. The Unionists gained one each in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Perth, and lost one in Inverness, where Mr. Finlay, one of their ablest men, was beaten by fifty-three votes. Lord Wolmer's success in West Edinburgh was the result of the sensationalism of a week which has been prolific in sensations. Hardly less remarkable is the decrease of the Gladstonian majority in West Aberdeenshire, where Dr. Farquharson, whose majority in 1886 was 2,197, now has a majority of eighty. Nevertheless, here, as in Ireland, Home Rule will, when the election is over, be found in an overwhelming ascendancy. So of Wales, where the Unionists gained Montgomery, and are hoping to gain at least one more member. The Welsh plaudits will remain for Home Rule. It now stands nine Gladstonians to two Unionists, with fifteen returns to come.

Taking each day's work throughout the Kingdom by itself, the net Unionist losses were on Monday nine, the Unionist gain on Tuesday one, the Unionist loss on Wednesday seven, on Thursday seven, on Friday so far as known two. The large number of counties which voted yesterday are yet to come in. The voting has been almost everywhere extraordinarily heavy, and the majorities in many cases on both sides so far as small. The total number of votes thus far is 2,223,013, of which the Gladstonians, giving them the labor votes, 29,152, have polled 1,122,765, and the Unionists 1,100,248. This takes no account of the uncontested constituencies, the greater part of which are Unionist.

It is now, of course, to the counties that the Gladstonian plus his faith and his hopes. Few Gladstonian gains can, from the nature of the case, be expected, either in Ireland, Scotland or Wales. The Home Rule representation of each is supposed to be in danger of capture. A tremendous overturn in the English counties may still give him what "The Daily News" called an adequate, though not a substantial, majority. The key of the situation is in the hands of Home Rule. What will he do with it? Nobody quite knows. He may follow the lead of his brother laborers in the towns; he may take a line of his own. I asked a Gladstonian manager what he thought of Home Rule. "We think him a very shrewd fellow."

"Does that mean he is going to vote for you?"
"He is too shrewd to tell us."

The counties have been worked for the most part not by appeals for what Mr. Gladstone describes as justice to Ireland, but by very direct appeals to the self-interest or class interests of the voter. If they are to reverse the verdict of the boroughs, it will be upon those grounds.

The returns from forty-three out of 234 English parliamentary divisions of the counties are known as I write. The Gladstonian gains in these forty-three amount to four. If that proportion be kept up, a considerable victory would still be theirs. When this election began the Ministry had a majority of 68 in the House of Commons. A loss of 34 seats is, therefore, sufficient to wipe out their majority. Down to last night the net Unionist loss was 24, and out of the 670 members

who compose the whole House of Commons 343 had been chosen.

It is well to bear in mind, for the purpose of comparison, the forecasts on both sides. Mr. Gladstone himself counted on a majority of over 100. His son, Mr. Herbert Gladstone, told a French reporter that seventy was their minimum and twice that their expectation. The estimates by the Liberal managers and agents varied from thirty to sixty; the estimates of the Unionist managers and agents varied from a Unionist majority of twenty to a Gladstonian majority of thirty. The net Gladstonian gain, out of more than half the House already chosen, is twenty-four. If they continue to gain at the same rate, Mr. Gladstone would come in with a majority of twenty-four. That is not thought to be a sufficient majority to carry Home Rule. When he and his friends still hope is that they may do better proportionately in the counties than in the boroughs. The most sanguine of them still expect a final majority of sixty. The less sanguine put it at forty. The Unionist calculation is that it will not exceed thirty, and there are even Unionists who doubt whether Mr. Gladstone will come in at all. What is certain is that Mr. Gladstone's majority, whatever it be, will be an Irish majority; that is, he will be in the minority in the rest of the Kingdom. The Irish members, therefore, might be able to make their own terms with him.

Labor has played a considerable part in these elections, both directly and indirectly. It has returned five members of its own; members, that is, who are for labor first and Home Rule second, thus reversing Mr. Gladstone's order. They are Mr. Bart for Morpeth, Mr. Wilson for Middlesbrough, Mr. Burns for Battersea, Mr. Rowlands for East Finsbury, and Mr. Keir Hardie for South West Ham. There were, however, nine Labor members in the old House, so that of itself would not be a great achievement. But they have in scores of constituencies struck up an alliance with the Gladstonians and in many insured the return of candidates whose success otherwise would have been very doubtful. They have in some other cases declined either to give way to Gladstonians or to support them and have succeeded in making a present of at least three seats to the Unionists.

"One thing," says a Gladstonian organ with radical tendencies, "is perfectly obvious. Liberalism is nowhere without the working-class vote, and it will be nowhere without working-class politics. The Tory comment upon that is that the Labor vote must be had hereafter at its own price and that the Gladstonians are prepared to pay the price. So, perhaps, are the Unionists, some of whom have said as much. Finally the workingmen in many boroughs have shown a clear resolve to forego the eight hours issue. They defeated the best of their own men, Mr. Broadhurst, in Nottingham, because he was against eight hours. They turned against Mr. Morley in Newcastle for the same reason, and very nearly defeated him. The Newcastle case must be considered by itself. Mr. Morley honestly said he and his party had sustained a great reverse. Mr. Hammond (Unionist) comes in at the head of the poll by nearly 3,000 majority. Mr. Morley is elected and his Gladstonian colleague defeated. Eight hours did it. Other causes contributed, but the eight hours men made no secret of their purpose to punish Mr. Morley for refusing to sacrifice his convictions to what they thought their interests, and they openly supported a Unionist against him. It is a bitter business for Mr. Morley. It may ultimately cost him his seat should he take office and so have again to solicit election. He is not the most discreet of men. He observed during the contest that he should not care to sit for Newcastle with a Unionist colleague, that it would be an "ignominy." If there is any disaster to the Unionist side to set off against this, it may be the defeat of Mr. Ritchie, a Cabinet Minister in the East End of London.

The Liberal-Unionists have shown unexpected strength. There were sixty-six of them in the last House. They were told that not more than ten or twelve of them were to survive. They already number twenty-six in the new House. They have lost nine seats, and gained five, leaving a net loss of four.

Assuming, for the moment, that Mr. Gladstone will have a majority of some sort, the question of what will be done with it becomes an interesting subject. There will be an imperative necessity of coming to terms with his Irish allies. He will have a free hand. His hand is free, that is, so far as England is concerned. To England he has given no pledges, offered no explanation, made no statement which binds him to one form of Home Rule rather than another. You seem to have in New York some curious information respecting the new Home Rule bill, both outlines and details. I can only say that no such information is accessible to the English public. No other knowledge has been communicated to them than what is to be found in Mr. Gladstone's Edinburgh speech. It is not believed here that the provisions of the new bill have been imparted to Lord Rosebery or to Mr. Morley, or to anybody else, or that Mr. Gladstone has made up his mind what he will do. Some alternative possibilities may have been put before these two gentlemen and one or two others, or may not; but whether they have or not, the hundreds of thousands of electors who have been voting for Gladstonian candidates have been voting absolutely in the dark.

The only thing to which Mr. Gladstone is pledged is Home Rule for Ireland in some shape. He will frame a bill, introduce it, perhaps pass it. I say perhaps, because the moment he commits himself to a specific measure his troubles will begin, as they began in 1886. Many of his supporters are elected, and many more will be elected next week on other issues than Home Rule. They have views of their own; their constituencies have views. Even though they regard Home Rule as of secondary, not primary, importance, they will agree to some things and not to others. Mr. Gladstone's calculation may be that his followers who are elected by small majorities will be the most docile of all. Their seats, in the event of another dissolution would be in peril, and they must, he thinks, accept any bill he may propose. Wherefore, he prefers small majorities. Whatever members may say or do, public opinion will begin to act, and to act on them. The bill will be subjected to the most minute and merciless criticism. It will rain amendments in the House of Commons. Nobody can say in what shape the bill will emerge from Committee. Should it ever get there, however, let us assume, as we did about the majority, that some Home Rule bill, in some shape or other, will pass the House of Commons and go up to the House of Lords. Mr. Balfour has said in most explicit terms that the House of Lords will reject it. Mr. Gladstone has said that he shall not feel bound to dissolve because the Lords reject his bill. What, then, will he do? Well, I still abstain from prophecy, but I may tell you what his intimate friends, or some of them, say he will do. He will not go to the country. He will hang up his Home Rule bill, start an agitation against the House of Lords with a view of presently overhauling that body, and meantime proceed with the Newcastle programme. Then when the agitation against the Lords has done its work a new Home Rule bill will be introduced in the House of Commons, probably in the following year, again passed and again submitted to the upper house, where the Peers may be forced to acquiesce in legislation which nine out of ten of them abhor. It is premature to consider whether such a scheme is likely to succeed, and how.

And all these contests at the polls the contest on the platform has been kept up with unabated vigor. Notably by Mr. Gladstone in Midlothian. The veteran orator has made many speeches, each of considerable length, all of them amazing in vigor, in variety, in eloquence, in lucidity and in the steadiness with which the great party leader fixes his mind on facts which make for his own side. He is fighting a great battle. He is fighting for what is dearer to him than life, for what he firmly believes to be a great and just cause. He carries away audiences. He is received and cheered with enthusiasm wherever he goes; perhaps a little less enthusiastically than of old, but with enthusiasm. He has never been so personal and never attacked even Lord Beaconsfield with more severity than he now attacks Salisbury. There are many other points on which the Conservative element and the leaders on the much might be said but need not be. It is a moment when acts, not words, avail; when a single ballot in the hands of the most ignorant voter may do more good or harm than the most splendid speech of the greatest of living English orators.

Still less need the speeches of lesser men detain us. There is no leader in the House of Commons on either side who has not spoken many times. The voices of the Peers are hushed. No audible or articulate political utterance has been heard from any Peer since the writs went out last Tuesday week. Such is the constitutional etiquette of this Kingdom, and such the strictness with which on both sides it is observed. That all the leaders who may speak should speak is thought essential. The least slackness would be deemed evidence of despair. The papers still make an effort to report all this oratory. Mr. Gladstone is, in fact, reported in full, and Mr. Balfour; but hardly anybody else. The speeches are with these two exceptions really addressed first of all to the constituencies for whose votes the speakers are asking. Each speaker, however, has from night to night a theory of the elections as they proceed which he feels bound to state. No two are quite alike, and the Gladstonian view differs from the Unionist as much as the Unionist differs from the Gladstonian. They are all meant to influence succeeding elections. It is considered that with the election's spread over a fortnight the early victors tend to reproduce themselves. The British elector likes to be on the winning side. This is not very complimentary view of him, is, however, rejected by some of the shrewdest agents. They point to 1885 and 1886, when the counties voted regardless of what the boroughs had done before them.

The duel between the German Emperor and Prince Bismarck continues, and Prince Bismarck's reply to the semi-official attack on him in the "North German Gazette" has appeared. It is the answer of contempt, not always the most effective. The Prince will not believe it is either the Emperor or the Chancellor who inspired or dictated the solemn, not to say ponderous, rebuke of the Chancellor's organ. He prefers to consider it exclusively the handiwork of the editor, who he takes pains to name repeatedly. The whole business is to him "a bad joke." He replies, nevertheless, to some of the calumnies covered by this bad joke. His reply is a simple denial, coupled with a challenge, a mocking challenge, to his enemies to produce their evidence and to begin their prosecution. He will not admit that the voice of Germany is against him. The voice which makes itself heard so loudly in certain quarters is but the echo of that singularly Clerico-Socialist alliance, which, for years, while he was in power, pursued him with unrelenting hostility. The demand, such as it is, for his prosecution, is to be found, says the Prince in Radical, Clerical, Socialist and Social Democratic organs, and above all, in Hungarian and English papers. True it is that the English papers, if they have not precisely demanded that criminal proceedings should be taken against the great German, have encouraged those who would take them if they dared. That is their way of avenging themselves upon Prince Bismarck for what they call his anti-English policy. He has been neither anti-English nor pro-English. He has been German. He thought the alliance of Russia, or the good-will of the Russians, more vital to Germany than that of England, and he acted on that belief. His reward is to be reviled by the English press. As for the other points, they are mostly of minor interest abroad, and the only point on which Chancellor von Caprivi retorts is misapprehension. He cannot endure to have it believed that before he became Chancellor he had any political relations whatever. He even denies that he has any now. An odd position for a Parliamentary chief to take. He has, however, by way of reprisal, published his own circular to the German Ambassadors respecting Prince Bismarck's journey and his instructions to Prince Bismarck at Vienna. Both documents are a painful expression of Imperial resentment and vindictiveness.

The riot at Pittsburgh is discussed by British Free Traders with ill-disguised gloom. They seem ready to welcome bloodshed or anything else which supplies them with a shred of an argument, good or bad, against American Protection. "It is only the cause of Protection, with large," shrieks "The Daily News." That is to say, labor riots are the natural effect of Protection when they occur in America; when they occur in England, where strikes, violence, outrage and intimidation are far more frequent than in America, what are they the effect of? The British Free Trader does not trouble his head about the beam in his own eye; the American note occupies his entire attention. "The iron and steel industries of America," says the Free Trader, "enjoyed the full benefit of the McKinley Tariff, until wages have been raised. That is what is at issue. After all the members of the Senate had assembled and the members of the House of Commons had been summoned to the chamber of the Senate, he closed the second session of the seventh Parliament of Canada with a speech. In the course of it he said: "Representation has been made by the Administration of the United States that the schedule of tolls which has been in force upon the Canadian canals for some years past operates to the disadvantage of shipping and the interests of United States citizens on the Great Lakes. This complaint has been examined and discussed with the authorities of the United States, and a proposal has been submitted on behalf of my Government, that the United States restore the concessions that were made on the part of that country by the Treaty of Washington as an equivalent for concessions on the part of Canada as to the canals, but which were withdrawn by the United States without cause, so far as Canada is concerned. This proposal has not yet been replied to, but it is hoped that the fairness of the position taken by my Government will be duly appreciated by the Government of the United States, so that all further misunderstanding on this question may be avoided."

TRIED IN VAIN TO FLOAT THE SHENANDOAH.
Hullfax, N. S., July 9.—The steamer Hiram, which arrived here this morning from Newfoundland, reports that she met the steam tug John L. Gunn, on Monday last, near Twin Islands, in the Straits of Belle Isle, at which place she has been for five days, endeavoring to float the American schooner Shenandoah, stranded on Western Point Island. Captain Johnston, the special agent for the Underwriters, who has charge of the expedition, states that after five days hard work, during which time in trying to pull the vessel off the rocks a large hawser was broken and other gear was damaged, and finding the operation of floating the vessel much more difficult than at first anticipated, the Gunn was obliged to return to Sydney for more suitable appliances, and will make another attempt.

ASKING FOR THE STEAMER'S RELEASE.
OTTAWA, July 9.—The Dominion Government has sent a representative to Washington asking for the release of the Victoria steamer tugboat, which was captured by a United States revenue-cutter near Alaska.

WRECKED BY A RIFLE SHELL.

A SCHOONER'S STERN TORN OFF NEAR SANDY HOOK.

WORK OF A TEN-INCH GUN AT THE ARMY ORD-NANCE PROVING GROUND—THE VESSEL'S CREW SAVED.

A most singular accident happened off Sandy Hook yesterday afternoon. A schooner peacefully working her way down the coast in the light southerly wind was wrecked by a ten-inch projectile fired from a gun on the old fort at the Hook. The ordnance officers at Sandy Hook have been experimenting for some time with a new all-steel breech-loading rifled gun mounted on a disappearing gun-carriage. This carriage is the invention of H. A. Spitzer, of the South Boston Iron Works. A bed had been made for it behind the parapets of the old fort, and exhaustive experiments, highly satisfactory in their results, have been made. A pneumatic arrangement props the gun up above the parapet, and when it is fired the recoil causes it to disappear behind the masonry work.

Yesterday the gun was being fired for the purpose of testing the velocity of the projectile. The projectile weighs 575 pounds, and is fired with a full service charge of 250 pounds of powder. Two wire screens were erected in front of the gun 150 feet apart. The passage of a projectile through the screens breaks an electric circuit and a delicate machine records the time of passage from one screen to another. Three shots were fired through the screens. The direction of this fire was south-east, and toward the ocean.

The schooner Henry R. Tilton was about four miles from the shore and about three-quarters of a mile south of the line of fire. The second shot from the big gun, for some unknown reason, was deflected to the southward toward the schooner. It struck the water and ricocheted, striking the schooner's stern and tearing it off. The officers working the gun did not notice what the projectile had done, and soon fired another shot. The men on the schooner were much surprised and badly frightened.

The schooner settled down in the water and the captain and crew took to the vessel's yawl. Sheppard Knapp was out fishing in his steam launch in the vicinity of the schooner. He steamed down to her and took the yawl in tow, bringing her around the point of the Hook to the Government pier. The officers who were experimenting with the gun were greatly shocked when they learned what had happened. The Government steamer General Wool towed the yawl and the crew of the Tilton up to Jersey City. The General Wool also brought up the officers who had been making the experiment.

When they landed they were reticent to a degree which would have excited the envy of a claim. Captain Frank Heath, of the Ordnance Corps, who was in charge of the experiments, talked freely about the accident, however. He said: "I have not any idea what caused the shot to be deflected. It might have struck a sand dune or some other obstruction on the beach. The schooner was in plain sight, and well to the south of our line of fire. Of course, I greatly regret the accident, but do not feel myself to blame at all in the matter. With all our experimenting at Sandy Hook this is the first accident of the kind that has happened. We will continue our experiments, of course. I shall immediately make a report of the matter to Washington."

The names of the crew on the schooner were Captain F. S. Harris; mate, Charles Goss; steward, Walter Green; and seamen, Richard Smith, William Dwyer, Lewis Gierach and Jan J. de Vries. The crew of the schooner was bound from Philadelphia in ballast. She was a three-masted schooner of 168 tons register, and was owned by Samuel E. Harris, of Philadelphia, N. J., who has a ship chandlery place in Southport, N. C. The schooner did not sink when the shot took her stern off, but, after settling down in the water until her bows were awash, remained floating about. A tug, which was nearby, towed her to the shore of the Hook, and she was towed to the pier and landed her cargo.

People who have been watching or fishing off Sandy Hook when the ordnance officers are at work at the proving grounds will read the story of the destruction of the schooner Tilton with keen interest. Shots fired from Sandy Hook for the purpose of testing the velocity of the projectile have been known to strike the water and then leap over a vessel with a shriek which scared the occupants of the boat out of a year's earnings. Though, as Captain Heath says, this is the first accident of the kind, it is an accident which frequently occurs in the proving grounds. The officers who have been known to strike the water and then leap over a vessel with a shriek which scared the occupants of the boat out of a year's earnings. Though, as Captain Heath says, this is the first accident of the kind, it is an accident which frequently occurs in the proving grounds. 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